

Taking it Home:

- The narrative of Jonah is a narrative about God's people going into the world to proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ so people will hear and respond to the message like the Ninevites heard and responded to Jonah's message from God. Even though Jonah was reluctant to go and proclaim, he was used mightily for God's Kingdom. Examine yourself today; are you a reluctant believer who does NOT want to go into your realm of influence with the saving message of Christ? What will it take for God to convince you to be His ambassador to a sinful, dying world of people? (Cf. Matthew 10:32-33).
- God's compassion, mercy, grace and forgiveness are available to all people. What about your compassion, mercy, grace and forgiveness towards other people? Have you received forgiveness and salvation yet you will not forgive others? (Cf. Matthew 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32).
- When it comes to redemption from sin, someone had to suffer and pay the price as a sacrifice for others. Jesus suffered to redeem mankind from sin. What if Jesus calls you or I to suffer for Him; would we be willing? **READ 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14.**

Jonah and the World Beyond
Glimpses of Jesus in the Midst of Calamity
Matthew 12:38-42

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Bethel Church
October 30, 2011

Glimpses of Jesus in the Midst of Calamity

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 30, 2011

Matthew 12:38-42

Quick Review: The Book of Jonah is an amazing collection of snapshots of Jesus, seen along the way of Jonah's disobedience and Nineveh's resurgence. These snapshots offer compelling hints of the coming Christ, and the grace with which Jesus mitigates our brokenness.

My Story:

- Most believers can, in some degree, identify with the character of Jonah. Are there specific events or things that have occurred in your life that reflect some part of Jonah's journey? Explain
- In many ways the narrative of Jonah's journey was a sign of the coming Christ. Evaluate your life: In what way(s) are you a **sign** to non-Christians in your realm of influence which points people to Jesus? Reflect and discuss.

Growing Deeper:

- In what way do we see the ultimate sympathy & mercy of God towards the very brutal, sinful, pagan Assyrians living in Nineveh? Did the Ninevites deserve God's mercy, sympathy and eventual salvation? Why? Why not? (Cf. Jonah 1:1; 3:10). Can you see a similarity of Jesus' sympathy, mercy and grace being offered to sinful, undeserving people and pagan Gentiles who didn't deserve His sympathy? **READ & interpret Matt. 9:10-13; John 4:1-26; 8:1-10; Acts 16:6-10.**
- Pastor Matthew stated Jonah is a type of substitutionary sacrifice like Christ; in what way? (Cf. Jonah 1:12; 1:17). **Compare & contrast** Jonah's sacrifice with Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice in Matt. 12: 38-41; 20:28; Romans 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Peter 1:3; 2:24.
- What did it cost Jonah to finally obey God? Explain how Jonah personally suffered for delivering the message to Nineveh. What does the Bible say about the cost of discipleship? **READ and interpret Matt. 10:34-39; Luke 14:27; 1 Peter 4:12-14.** What's the cost of discipleship for you? Has there been a cost to you personally? Discuss.
- Why did Pastor Matthew say Jesus is a "type" of Jonah in regards to His suffering? Why would God be willing to suffer for a bunch of sinful people in Nineveh or in Fargo, ND? (Cf. 1 John 4:9-10).
- Jonah is the only prophet that Jesus directly identifies himself with. Of all people to identify Himself with, why would Jesus only identify Himself with Jonah, the reluctant prophet? (Cf. Matt. 12:38-41).
- Why would God show sympathy, mercy, grace and eventual salvation to the very sinful, brutal people listed in the Book of Jonah and why would God show mercy, compassion and grace to sinful, brutal people today? Do Christ-rejecting nations and people groups around the world deserve God's sympathy, compassion and grace? Did you deserve it? Who deserves God's compassion and mercy? **READ & Interpret Romans 3:9-18.** Why does God have mercy on sinners? **READ & Interpret John 3:16; 10:11; Romans 5:8; Eph. 5:2; Titus 3:4-6.**